## SAN ANTONIO

#### AN AVIATION NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS

# ight Plan

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CITY OF SAN ANTONIO AVIATION DEPARTMENT

## **ExpressJet Arriving in SA with Nonstop Flights To Eight New Destinations**



On February 5, 2007, ExpressJet Airlines announced flight service to 24 cities across the U.S. West Coast, Southwest and Midwest regions, to include San Antonio, beginning in April 2007.

ExpressJet may be a new brand to the San Antonio passenger but it is a well established airline. ExpressJet, with over 7,000 employees, is one of the world's largest regional air carriers and has a long history operating a fleet of Embraer jets as Continental Express to more the 150 destinations in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

Ticket sales for two of the eight new nonstop routes from San Antonio went on sale in early February. San Antonio passengers can fly nonstop to Los Angeles-Ontario and Sacramento airports beginning in April. Service from San Antonio to these never before served airports begins April 9. Between April and June, ExpressJet will begin flying nonstop from San Antonio to the following new nonstop destinations: Albuquerque, NM; New Orleans, LA; Oklahoma City, OK; Raleigh Durham, NC; Tucson, AZ; and Tulsa, OK. To make reservations contact your travel agent or log onto www.xjet.com "We're pleased to welcome ExpressJet, one of the nation's largest regional airlines, and one of Fortune Magazine's Most Admired Airlines in 2005 and 2006," San Antonio Mayor Phil Hardberger said at the February 5th press conference.

"ExpressJet is bringing a young fleet of aircraft with upgraded services and more comfort, convenience and quality customer services to several cities that do not have nonstop service from San Antonio," said Jim Ream, President and CEO of ExpressJet Airlines.



Mayor Phil Hardberger welcomes ExpressJet to San Antonio.

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#### **Airport Construction Update**

"Every effort to alleviate inconve-

nience and ensure safety where the

facilities and especially within ar-

eas of construction is being taken",

traveling public utilizes airport

said Aviation Director Webb.

Street lane closures, shifting cones and barricades, and demolition of existing structures describe most of the work taking place at San Antonio International Airport. Some of

these construction activities are preparatory before work begins on the City of San Antonio's largest construction program ever undertaken. Other work, mostly on the airfield, is in connection with constructing new aircraft parking aprons. This 10-year, \$636.4 million Capital Improvement Program got under way in 2006 with utility relocation and the demolition of several older

structures that had outlived their usefulness and were in the way of the new aircraft parking aprons, terminals and two-level roadway system.

Preliminary construction activity is noticeable in the long-term surface parking lot where approximately 850 spaces have been removed from the Airport's parking inventory to allow for contractor staging and construction work to begin on the new long-term parking garage. An official ground breaking for the new 928,000 square foot, 2,814-space garage will be held on March 7, 2007.

The Economy Parking Lot located off of South Terminal Drive has been expanded to add 720 spaces. "During peak travel periods, the exiting long-term parking garage will fill up quickly", said Aviation Director Mark Webb. "We urge our airport patrons to utilize the low cost (\$5 per day), convenient and free door-to-door shuttle service offered in our Economy Parking Lot."

SAT First Airport to Offer Deaf Link

DEAFLINK

In January 2007, San Antonio International Airport (SAT) unveiled an exciting new customer service designed to make air travel easier for the deaf community. A video-uplink interpreter service is now available in an airport setting for the first time ever, thanks to a partnership between SAT and the Deaf Link Company.

If a deaf customer is having difficulty communicating with airline personnel or airport personnel, he or she may be escorted to a private room where the Deaf Link up-link equipment is located. A licensed American Sign Language interpreter appears on a video conferencing monitor screen. The interpreter then facilitates the conversation between the two parties. The Deaf Link logo has been placed throughout both terminals to inform the deaf community that the service is available in Terminal 1.

Passengers using Terminal 2 will notice construction walls going up at the east end of the lobby area. Work is taking place to relocate TSA baggage screening equipment and

American Airlines to vacant ticket counter areas. The east portion of Terminal 2 will need to be demolished to make room for Terminal B, which will replace Terminal 2. Demolition of the Terminal 2 west bag claim area wall and adjacent ground transportation structure is also taking place to allow construction of the new two-level roadway system.

Two-level roadway system.

South Terminal
Drive Entrance

Sexisting Terminal 1
New Terminal 8
New Terminal C
Existing Terminal 2
Current Long-Term
Parking Garage
Hourly Parking Lot
Centrance
Airport Blvd.
Airport

Airport Expansion Layout

#### **Refunding of Airport Bonds**

In order to take advantage of lower interest rates, approximately \$17,725,00 in 1996 San Antonio Airport Revenue bonds were refunded in order to reduce the cost of interest. The transaction involved the issuance of new bonds at a low interest rate and utilization of the proceeds to retire the 1996 bonds, which were at a higher interest rate. It is estimated that a savings of \$730,487 was achieved through the bond refunding. The cost savings strengthens the financial position of the San Antonio International Airport, lowers the cost to the airlines, and increases the amount of funds available for capital improvements. Through the process, the Airport also retained its high bond rating from the three (Fitch, Moody's, Standard & Poors) national credit rating firms.

### **ExpressJet Continued**

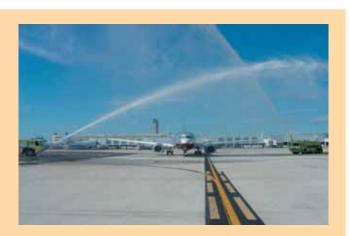
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"Our San Antonio customers will be able to relax on a nonstop flight, in a comfortable leather seat with more than 100 channels of free XM Satellite Radio."

Ream says the ExpressJet fleet of 50-seat Embraer aircraft is configured with no middle seat, assigning every ExpressJet customer a seat on the aisle, window or both. ExpressJet branded service will also offer an improved experience with valet carry-on bag service; complimentary, recognized name-brand snacks; and full-service meal options during longer flights.

"We thought San Antonio was the right market for ExpressJet because we can provide value by saving our customers time and making travel more convenient," Ream said. With its entrance into the San Antonio market, ExpressJet plans to hire about 35 employees locally, and invest approximately \$700,000 in airport facilities and equipment.

"ExpressJet is a welcome addition to San Antonio's family of airlines," said Aviation Director Mark Webb. "Their new service provides our community with 39 nonstop destinations - a record for San Antonio."



#### Welcome AeroMexico to San Antonio

San Antonio, a long-time popular destination for Mexican shoppers, tourists and business travelers, welcomed AeroMexico on November 16 and the airline's daily nonstop flights to Mexico City.

AeroMexico services more than 40 cities in Mexico, 14 gateway cities in the United States and five countries in Europe and South America. The company was founded in 1988. For more information and to make reservations, log onto www.aeromexico.com

#### **Distinguished Press Conference Guests**



L to R: (top) EXJet General Manager Phil Ruffin,
San Antonio City Councilman Kevin Wolff, Training
Specialist Katie Flowers, EXJet Senior Director Chris
Warren, San Antonio CVB Director Scott White
L to R: (bottom) San Antonio Aviation Director Mark
Webb, EXJet Senior Director of Airport Services John
Mullen, Mayor Phil Hardberger, County Judge Nelson
Wolff and Assistant City Manager Penny Postoak
Ferguson

### **Funjet Offers Mexico Beach Resorts**

Beginning in April, Funjet Vacations will offer packaged trips from San Antonio via Ryan International and AeroMexico



Airlines. From San Antonio, Funjet Vacations will offer the only nonstop flights to Cancun/Riviera Maya, Cozumel and Puerto Vallarta.

"Funjet Vacations, headquartered in Milwaukee, specializes in flexible, personalized vacations for individuals and groups via nonstop charters and scheduled airlines to more than 260 destinations," says Marketing Manager Sara Van deHey. "With Funjet Vacations, travelers can enhance their vacation through a wide variety of experiences such as tours, attractions, shows, sporting events and more. In addition, Funjet Vacations demonstrates its 'end-to-end' customer service philosophy by being available to customers throughout the entire vacation experience, from planning to in-destination to post-travel communications," adds VandeHey. To book a Funjet Vacation package, contact your travel agent. If you don't have a passport, Funjet Vacations offers several opportunities to help and save money. This service is available through your travel agent or by logging onto www.funjet.com/passport for details.

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#### San Antonio Conventions & Events

During the second quarter of 2007, the City of San Antonio will host more than 117 conventions with over 124,877 delegates. Among the visitors to San Antonio will be:

DATES	ORGANIZATIONS	<b>DELEGATES</b>
Apr. 4-7	University of Texas at San Antonio	4,000
Apr. 9-11	AT&T Inc.	6,000
Apr. 11-14	Texas Library Association	7,500
Apr. 15-19	National Head Start Association	7,000
May 3-5	American Institute of Architects	24,000
May 10-12	Texas Dental Association	12,335
June 10-13	Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee	16,000
June 20-23	State Bar of Texas	3,000
June 24-27	American Public Power Association	2,200
June 28-30	Conference for the Advancement of Mathematics Teaching	8,000

#### **SAT YEAR-TO-DATE STATS**

	Through Sept. '05	Through Sept. '06	Change
Domestic Enplanements	2,673,184	2,880,692	7.76%
International Enplanements	69,260	73,624	6.30%
Charter Enplanements	16,681	5,833	-65.0%
Total Enplanements	2,742,444	2,954,316	7.7%
Total Freight (lbs)	138,990,451	153,363,430	10.34%
Total Mail (lbs)	55,642,982	57,463,000	3.27%



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